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REVIEW OF THE DECLARATION OF THE 1990s AS THE THIRD DISARMAMENT DECADE

Proposed elements for the Report of Review of the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade

Working paper submitted by China

1. The Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade is a guiding document in the disarmament field which has identified common objectives and tasks of the international community in the nuclear, chemical and conventional disarmament fields in the 1990s.

2. Over the past five years, some progress has been made in the disarmament field. Some of the objectives of the Declaration have been achieved, as evidenced by the conclusion of the Chemical Weapons Convention and active preparation for its early entry into force by the signatories.

3. Some other objectives of the Declaration are in the process of being realized. The Conference on Disarmament is actively negotiating a comprehensive nuclear-weapon test-ban treaty and is about to begin negotiations on a convention banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear-weapon purposes. Note has also been taken of the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

4. Although countries with the largest and most sophisticated nuclear and conventional arsenals have reached some treaties on nuclear disarmament, they still have special responsibilities for disarmament. They should make further efforts to implement these treaties and effect further drastic cuts in their nuclear armaments. This will create conditions for other nuclear-weapon States to join the nuclear disarmament process.

5. The conditions are ripe for all nuclear-weapon States to undertake not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and not to use or threaten to use such weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones and to conclude treaties or legal instruments to that end. This should be one of the important and urgent disarmament objectives of the 1990s and will facilitate the achievement of complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons, which is our ultimate goal.

6. Outer space should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes, and the prevention of an arms race in outer space remains one of the main objectives in the field of disarmament and arms control in the 1990s.